



Michael R. Pence, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Aging

MS 21, 402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 7083
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46207-7083
TOLL FREE: 1-888-673-0002
FAX: 317-232-7867

**Division of Aging Update
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Waiver 101

We realize many of our readers are quite knowledgeable about waivers whereas others might not be as familiar with how they work. So we are introducing a series of short articles on waivers in this week's Update.

Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act permits states to offer, under a waiver of statutory requirements, an array of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) an individual needs to avoid institutionalization. The term "waiver" refers to the putting aside or waiving of certain federal requirements that otherwise apply to Medicaid program services. HCBS or waivers are not Medicaid entitlement programs.

States do have flexibility in designing their waivers. For example, they:

- (1) determine the target group(s) of Medicaid beneficiaries served through the waiver,
- (2) specify the services furnished to support waiver recipients in the community,
- (3) determine the qualifications of waiver providers,
- (4) design strategies to assure the health and welfare of waiver participants,
- (5) manage a waiver to promote the cost-effective delivery of home and community-based services,
- (6) link the delivery of waiver services to other state and local programs and their associated service delivery systems, and
- (7) develop and implement a Quality Improvement Strategy to ensure the waiver meets essential federal statutory assurances and to continuously improve the effectiveness of the waiver in meeting participant needs.

More in the next issue...

Prescription Drug Take-Back Programs

Many people take medications on a regular basis, but older adults often have quite a line-up of daily meds. Remind your patients, consumers, parents, friends and others about appropriate ways to dispose of meds.

Flushing unwanted and/or expired medicine may send both our health and the environment (wait for it...) down the toilet by directing it into wastewater treatment plants and septic systems not



designed to handle it. Many medicines pass through those systems and are released into streams, lakes, and groundwater where they affect fish and other aquatic flora and fauna, and even humans. Big problem. Huge.

What can you do? Visit Indiana's BitterPill.in.gov to read about options for proper disposal: take-back collection programs and where to find them, other recycling sites and what to do if collections are not available in your community.

Meet the DA Staff Members

Patti Bailey is executive assistant to the DA's Director and Deputy Director, and is the friendly voice you often hear when you call in for them. She also functions as the Division's traffic cop, bargain shopper, finder of things-that-cannot-be-found, meetings and locations scheduler par excellence, and travel agent. Plus, Patti is a member of various teams in conjunction with the Lt. Governor's Office and FSSA that organize annual events such as the annual State Employees' Community Campaign, Golden Hoosier Awards, and arranging transportation for Indianapolis area older adults to attend the Indiana Black & Minority Health Fair held during the Indiana Black Expo's Annual Summer Celebration. A multi-tasker, if you will.

Patti is married with three children, two adorable (of course!) grandchildren plus one on the way, and a dog named Bo Diddly Bailey. Unfortunately, someone else also liked Bo Diddly and pilfered him, so Patti's family no longer has him. But we thought it was such a cool dog name that it just had to be mentioned.

Stay Informed

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